

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Amended) An apparatus for forming and securing a decorative cover about an outer peripheral surface of a flower pot, the apparatus comprising:

a frame assembly having a well formed therein;

a platform connected to the frame assembly, the platform having an opening therein sized to permit passage of at least a portion of a flower pot and at least a portion of a sheet of cover forming material there through;

a cover forming and banding assembly having a flower pot receiving opening sized and configured to receive at least a portion of the sheet of cover forming material and at least a lower portion of the flower pot, the cover forming and banding assembly supported within the well of the frame assembly such that the flower pot receiving opening in the cover forming and banding assembly is aligned with the opening in the platform, the cover forming and banding assembly having a plurality of pleat forming members, each of the pleat forming members having a band-engaging portion for supporting at least one band thereon such that upon forming a

decorative cover about an outer peripheral surface of the flower pot by positioning the flower pot and at least a portion of the sheet of cover forming material within the pot receiving opening of the cover forming and banding assembly, the decorative cover so formed is secured about the outer peripheral surface of the flower pot by removing the at least one band from the band-engaging portion of the pleat forming members of the cover forming and banding assembly and positioning the at least one band about the decorative cover.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cover forming and banding assembly comprises:

a lower portion having an opening formed therein; and

an upper portion, ~~having a~~ the upper portion defines the plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members, the plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members disposed about the opening in the lower body portion and extending in an upwardly direction therefrom, the plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members cooperating with the opening in the lower body portion to define the flower pot receiving opening in the cover forming and banding assembly.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the cover forming and banding assembly further comprises a plurality of legs extending outwardly from the lower portion of the cover forming and banding assembly for stabilizing the cover forming and banding assembly in the well of the frame assembly.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the platform is provided with a passageway extending from the opening therein to an outer peripheral edge of the platform so as to form a passageway to the opening in the platform and wherein the housing is provided with an opening in a peripheral sidewall thereof which is aligned with the passageway formed in the platform for providing unrestricted access to the cover forming and banding assembly supported within the well of the frame assembly.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein a distal end portion of each of the pleat forming members of the cover forming and band assembly is ~~provided with a~~ defines the band-engaging portion for stabilizing at least one band thereon such that upon positioning at least a portion of the flower pot and the sheet of cover forming material within the pot opening of the cover forming and banding assembly the band can be selectively removed therefrom and positioned about the decorative cover so formed about the flower pot.

6. (Original) The apparatus on claim 5 wherein a lower portion of at least two of the pleat forming members of the cover forming and banding assembly is provided with a recess whereby a plurality of bands can be stored on the lower end portion of the at least two pleat forming members.